

## Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /039 W  
----- 071746

O R 151200Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0062

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T ROME 3800

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, VS, CB

SUBJECT: PAPAL CONCERN OVER CAMBODIA

1. VATICAN'S DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, ARCHBISHOP BENELLI, CALLED ILLING TO HIS OFFICE MORNING MARCH 15 TO INFORM HIM THAT POPE PAUL DEEPLY ANGUISHED OVER SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN SAIGON, ARCHBISHOP LE MAITRE, HAS SENT REPORTS TO VATICAN IN LAST FEW DAYS WHICH INDICATE THAT KHMER ROUGE ARE WANTONLY MASSACRING INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN AREAS THEY HAVE RECENTLY CONQUERED. THESE REPORTS FROM LE MAITRE BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM CATHOLIC CLERGY IN COMBAT AREAS AS WELL AS FROM OTHER SOURCES. BENELLI SAID POPE ANXIOUSLY HOPING USG CAN USE ITS SUPREME EFFORTS TO LIMIT "BLOODBATH" NOW UNDERWAY IN CAMBODIA. POPE DOES NOT PRESUME TO SUGGEST JUST WHAT USG COULD DO, BUT HUMAN SUFFERING SO GREAT THAT OUR BEST EFFORTS DEMANDED.

2. ILLING TOLD BENELLI THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND ADMINISTRATION HAVE FOR MONTHS BEEN TRYING TO ALERT PUBLIC OPINION TO LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS COMMUNIST REPRISALS IN CAMBODIA AND FOR THIS REASON WE HAVE SOUGHT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEGITIMATE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. CONGRESS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPEAR DISPOSED TO VOTE REQUESTED FUNDS.

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3. IN POPE PAUL'S NAME, CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE VILLOT  
HAS SENT TELEGRAMS OF CONCERN TO APOSTOLIC VICAR OF PHNOM  
PENH AND TO BISHOP OF BAN ME THUOT IN NEIGHBORING RVN. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ATROCITIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PAPAL CONCERN OVER CAMBODIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VT, VS, CB, US, (POPE PAUL VI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006